

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A thermal development apparatus for developing a thermal development film, having a heating section, which has at least a partially cylindrical surface for transporting and heating the film; plural parallel pressing rollers for pressing the film onto the cylindrical surface;

wherein, when "R" denotes the curvature radius of the cylindrical surface, "r" denotes the radius of pressing rollers, " $\alpha$  (degrees)" denotes the angle between two neighboring axial centers of pressing rollers with respect to the center of the curvature radius of the cylindrical surface, and "P" denotes the pitch with which the pressing rollers are provided; the following expressions are satisfied;

$$P = 2\pi R\alpha/360,$$

$$P > 2r$$

wherein, when "l" denotes the shortest distance between the leading or trailing edge of the effective image area and the leading or the trailing edge of the film; the relationship of  $l > P$  is satisfied.